

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

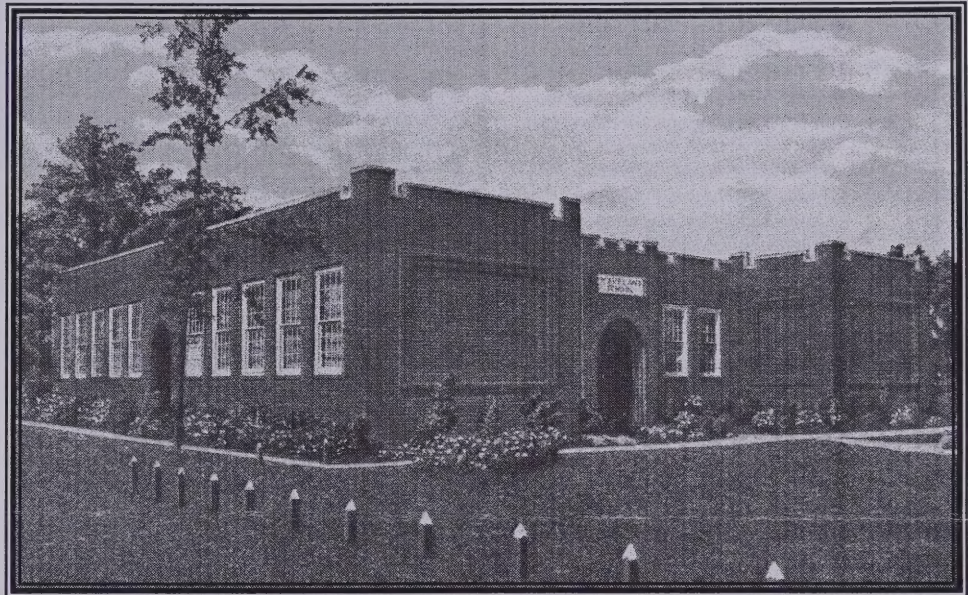
August 2009

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The August luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The speaker will be Karen Ruhr, Hancock County Circuit Clerk. Mrs. Ruhr will discuss the renovations and restoration of the Hancock County Courthouse. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call **by noon on Wednesday, August 19**, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-five people, and to apprise Michelle of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$8.00.

ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

Even though October is still a couple of months away, it's not too early to begin thinking about and planning the Hancock County Historical Society Annual Cemetery Tour. It will be held on Halloween night, Saturday, October 31, 2009, at Cedar Rest Cemetery on Second Street. We will need volunteers to help prepare the cemetery for the tour (mark the path, etc.), to portray citizens buried there, to act as guides, and to serve at the Lobrano House.



Built in 1930, the Old Waveland School (Civic Center) has been restored since Hurricane Katrina

The City of Waveland

By
Eddie Coleman

In an article in the May 4, 1893, New Orleans *Times-Democrat*, a staff correspondent wrote of the city of Waveland:

"Waveland is a suggestive name—suggestive of a land made musical by the swish of waters and by the creamy crush of billows on the beach. [It is] a place where sparkling waters stretch unbroken to the horizon's edge, and where waves, in never-ending succession, march in long ranks, to roll their slow and slumberous lengths on

the sandy shore."

He further stressed that much of the development of Waveland was the result of the building of vacation houses by wealthy New Orleanians to escape the stresses of city life and business. In fact, he avowed that all of the towns along the Mississippi Gulf Coast began as nothing more than suburbs of New Orleans.

Although the "Land of the Waves" has been a long established summer retreat and resort for visitors from New Orleans, the first permanent population came from the descendants of the original French and Spanish settlers. It is from these beginnings that the city of today has come.

Steamboats brought the first tourists to Waveland as early as

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Linda-Lou Nelson, PublisherPublished monthly by the
**HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY****2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Charles Gray, Executive Director
Scott Bagley, President
Edward Gibson, First Vice President
Jean Ann Thriffiley, Second Vice President
Barbara Warner, Treasurer
Carol Wasielewski, Secretary
Linda-Lou Nelson, Publicity
Ames Kergosien, Historian
Ellis Cuevas, Board Member At-Large**MAILING ADDRESS:**P. O. Box 3356
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**

108 Cue Street

Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090

Email address:

hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net

Website:www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com
Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

1818; however, it wasn't until 1830 that regular service was available. The city is forty-eight miles from New Orleans on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (CSX), which was begun in 1869 and completed twenty months later. Originally there were two stops in Waveland with one depot at Waveland Avenue and another at Nicholson Avenue. The two depots reinforce the fact that many New Orleans businessmen commuted monthly, weekly, or even daily to their jobs in the Crescent City.

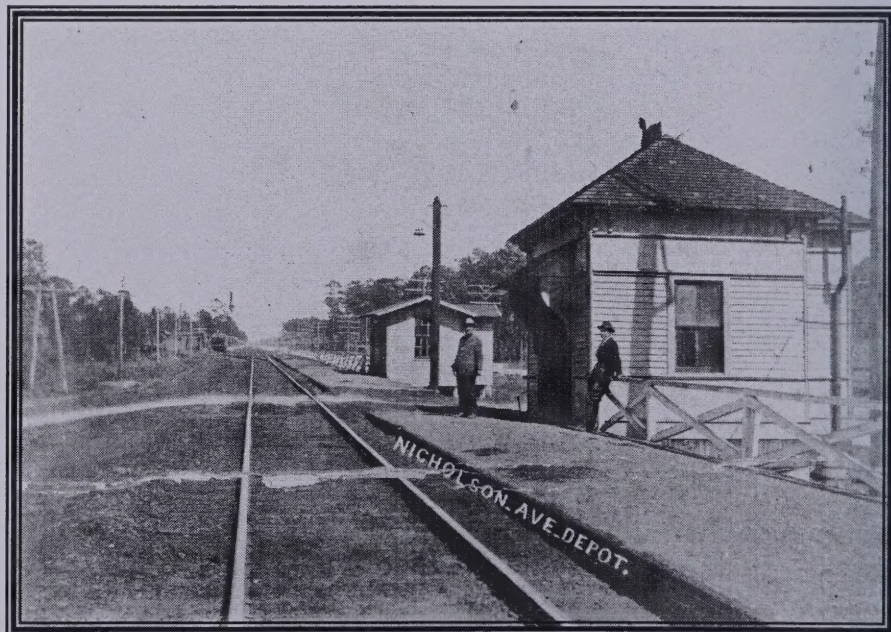
At one time the bulk of the city of Waveland was located on the south side of the railroad tracks because most of the houses were built along the shell beach road to take advantage of the Gulf breezes.

At first Waveland was a part of Shieldsboro (Bay Saint Louis), and an early name of the city was Montgomery Station. A post office was established in October 1875 with Joseph Carrio as the first postmaster. In time, the need arose for the "resort village" to become more, so in March 1888, city fathers applied for a charter to create a separate municipality with L.

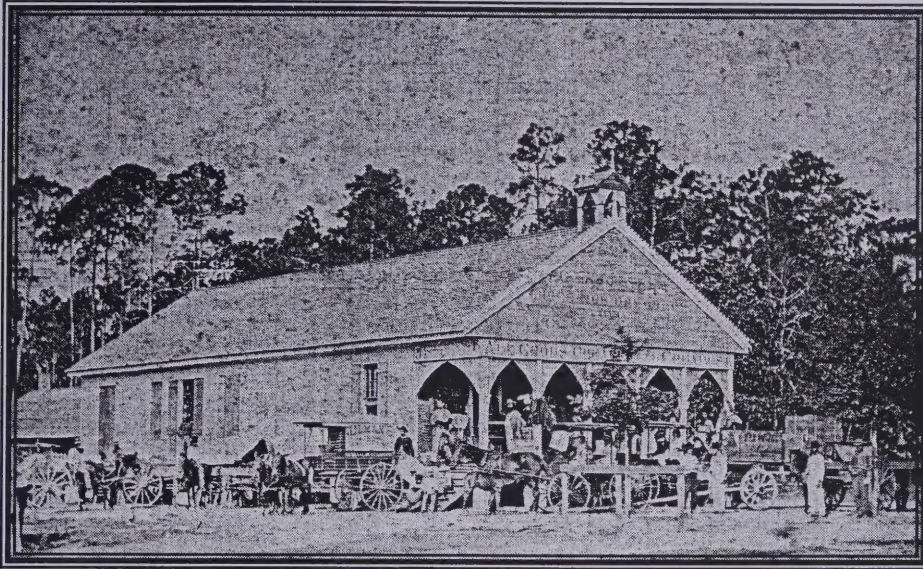
H. Fairchild as its first mayor and Alfred A. Ulman and Olus Bourgeois as the first two aldermen.

Located on Nicholson Avenue, the major business in the 1880's was the Ulman Woolen Mill, which had wool blankets and black and white plaid shawls as its principal products. So successful was the plant that Jeff Davis Avenue was opened to build homes for the mill workers. This community became known as Ulmanville. Other early businesses in the town included a grocery owned by Fortune O. Kroll, Sr., and located near the Waveland Avenue depot and a general merchandise store on Nicholson Avenue owned by J. B. Ulman. Later businesses were the Nicholson Avenue Theatre, which opened in 1921, another theater, which opened in 1925, and the Gulf Cinema, operated by Ed Ortte and opened in 1937.

In the early to mid-1950's visitors were entertained with gala street dances, barn dances at the town hall, and games of the Waveland baseball team, which was named the Sentinels (later the Green Sox). In 1945 the municipal pier opened at the foot of Coleman



One of two depots in Waveland, the Nicholson Ave. Depot served the Ulman Mills.



The Ulman Commissary was located near the Ulman Mills on Nicholson Ave.

Avenue.

There were several notable houses, buildings, church camps, etc., located in Waveland and its surrounding area. Among these were Holy Cross Boys Camp on South Beach Blvd. (1908), the Dielmann Evangelical Center (1927—193), and Gulfside Assembly (1925). Some were lost to Hurricanes Camille and Katrina, and others were lost to fire or for other reasons. The one which has survived is the recently renovated Waveland School, built in 1930.

One interesting business was Brown's Vineyard, which was established in 1872 by Fred W. Brown of Germany and was known for its champagnes and scuppernong wine. A beautiful orchard and colony of alligators added color to the oldest and largest vineyard on the Coast. It was located in the vicinity of Lil' Rays on Highway 90.

Probably the house which has the most legends and tales surrounding it is known as "The Pirate House." Built in 1802, it was also known as the Blake House, and a great deal of mystery has surrounded its building and owner.

Since its early years the house has passed through many hands, and the story goes that it was once the home of a New Orleans businessman. Supposedly, he was overlord of a band of coast pirates who gave aid to Andrew Jackson in the defense of New Orleans in the War of 1812. It was this man to whom credit is given for organizing the pirate band

which was composed of such colorful characters as Pierre and Jean Lafitte. Unfortunately, the name of this man is unknown. [Editors note: a forthcoming article in the September issue of *The Historian* will discuss the possible original owner.] One legend even refers to him as Jean Lafitte himself. However, no documentation has been found to substantiate this supposition. One legend surrounding the house is that a secret tunnel once led from the house to the waterfront. What has been discovered to uphold this belief is that some older citizens of Waveland recall having been in this underground area as children.

Another famous house on North Beach Boulevard in Waveland was "Fort Nicholson," the home of Eliza Poitevent Nicholson. At the death of her husband in the late 1800's, Mrs. Nicholson became the editor and proprietor of the New Orleans *Daily Picayune*. In addition to these duties Mrs. Nicholson was the accomplished author of a book of poetry, *Lyrics*, using the pseudonym "Pearl Rivers."

Even though Waveland was



The home of Eliza Poitevent Nicholson at 615 North Beach Blvd., Waveland, MS, was known as "Fort Nicholson." Partially destroyed by fire, it was renovated, but was completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

heavily damaged by Hurricane Camille, it was almost completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Nonetheless, it has come through the damage, and houses and businesses are once again beginning to return and prosper in this "lovely village on the Mississippi Sound."

SOURCES:

Back, Edith. "Waveland." *The Historian*, Sept. 2000, pp. 1—2,
Brieger, James F. *Hometown Mississippi*. Privately published.
Vertical file, Hancock County Historical Society.

Students Shine at National History Day Competition

By
Renee McClendon

Area students, each having won their individual divisions at the State History Day Contest at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg earlier this year, traveled

to the University of Maryland at College Park to test their research and presentation projects against those of other state winners during the week of June 14-18, 2009. These six students were accompanied and supported by dozens of family members from the Hancock County area.

Although none of the Mississippi students placed high enough in their first level of national competition to participate in the final round, they finished near the middle of their categories, a great accomplishment for Mississippi History Day!

Eighth grader Leila Sabbagh won a special award: 'Best of State – Jr. Division,' with her documentary entitled, "Between Midnight and Day: The Son House Legacy." A project highlight for Leila was traveling to the University of Mississippi and the Mississippi Delta for research on this infamous bluesman.

The students and their families enjoyed touring the Washington, D.C. area, and trading state buttons with thousands of other

students representing every state in the U.S., as well as Guam, American Samoa, and Department of Defense Schools.

BOOKS FOR SALE AT LOBRANO HOUSE

Bay Saint Louis: Celebrating the First 300 Years
By the HCHS (\$15.00)

A nostalgic keepsake of the city's history including descriptions and pictures of many of the historic buildings and houses especially those along Beach Boulevard prior to Katrina

*Blueberry Peaches,
Red Robin Pie*

By Stella LaViolette
and Paul Estronza La Violette (\$25.00)
An annotated cookbook of Gulf Coast recipes

Heritage Cookbook

By the HCHS (\$15.00)
A collection of our members' favorite family recipes

Holly

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
An intriguing anthology of tales of a tomcat living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

Katrina Cookbook

By Charlet Russell (\$19.95)
A collection of recipes by Bayou Tours

One Dog, Two Dogs, Three Dogs, Four...

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
Twice told tales of several dogs living in a beach house on the Gulf Coast

Scrapbook of Treasured Memories

By Connie Heitzmann and Betty Stechmann (\$20.00)
A book of art, photography, and reminiscence of the Gulf Coast

Sink or Be Sunk

By Paul La Violette (\$30.00)
A recounting of the naval battle in the Mississippi Sound preceding the Battle of New Orleans in 1812

West Side Stories

Before, During, and After on Mississippi's West Coast

Photographs and Commentary by Vicki Niolet and Betty Stechmann (\$28.00)
A Pictorial of our homes and communities in Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Lakeshore, and Clermont Harbor

A White Egret in the Shallows

By Paul La Violette (\$20.00)
"His stories reveal the ambiance and wonder of coastal living, while at the same time showing the sometimes slow, sometimes catastrophic physical and social changes taking place in the coastal regions."

PLEASE ADD \$3.00 SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK (\$1.50 EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK) ON MAIL ORDERS.



National History Day Competitors and Coach

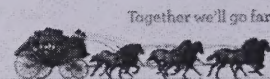
L to R—Coach Renee McClendon, Leila Sabbagh, Elizabeth Vogel, Brendan Ryan, Eric Sommer, Hayden Sherick, Joseph Sommer



Mississippi
State
Winner,
Leila
Sabbagh
and Coach
Renee
McClendon

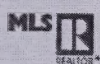


Steve B. Treutel
Financial Advisor
375 Courthouse Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
228-896-6461 • 800-847-6002



Investment and Insurance Products: ► NOT FDIC Insured ► NO Bank Guarantee ► MAY Lose Value
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC, is a registered broker-dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
©2009 Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. All rights reserved. 0409-1260 [74124-v1]

FORD REALTY, INC.



Established 1949

Residential • Timber Land • Commercial • Developers

P.O. Box 418 • 1004 Memorial Blvd. • Picayune, MS 39466

Office (601) 798-6202 • Fax (601) 799-0202

Out of State 1-(800)-354-FORD (3673) • www.fordrly.com

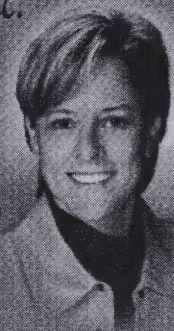
Glen "Cubby" Ford
Owner, Broker

Home Phone
(601) 798-3601

Ford Realty, Inc.

1004 Memorial Blvd.
P.O. Box 418
Picayune, MS 39466
Ofc 601.798.6202
Fax 601.799.0202
800-354.FORD(3673)
Cell 601.590.2988
www.fordrly.com

Home Phone
601.798.0082



Established 1949
Residential • Timber Land
Ranches • Commercial



Martha Ford,
Realtor
GRI, CMCA,
Licensed Appraiser

BAY BOOKS

131 MAIN ST.
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS.

GOOD READS

Get your signed copies of

A Piggly Wiggly Wedding
By Robert Dalby

And

Dream Room—Tales of the Dixie Mafia
By Chet Nicholson

Also of interest

*Mississippi Mud—Southern Justice and the
Dixie Mafia*
By Edward Humes

Gift ideas for all occasions: beautiful journals, art
prints, Jo Rusin chairs, gift certificates
228-463-2688

Tues. through Sun. 10:00 A. M.—5:30 P. M.

Visit us online at www.bay-books.com.

E mail at baybooks@bellsouth.net

Camille Tate Realty
C.I. Tate, Broker



Camille I. Tate, G.R.I.

331 Main Street
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Phone 228/463-9026
Fax 228/463-9679
Cell 228/216-5339

LOCAL COLOR



Quality
Painting

DAN BADER

528 STATE STREET
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520
228-466-5165



**CHARITABLE BINGO
AMERICAN LEGION POST #139**

**EVERY TUESDAY AND SATURDAY
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P. M.**

GREENMEADOW RD. BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS.

**HALL RENTAL—\$500
CLUBHOUSE RENTAL—\$200 FOR POST 139 MEMBERS
\$300 FOR NON LEGION MEMBERS**



RAYMOND JAMES

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Member NASD/SIPC

John "Corky" Hadden
Registered Principal

837 A Hwy. 90 228.466.9888
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 888.465.9968
www.rjf.com Fax: 228.466.9978
email: corky.hadden@raymondjames.com



Charley E. "Dusty" Rhodes
President

2118 Hwy 90
P.O. Box 2907
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
www.TheFirstBank.com

Phone: (228) 270-0030
Fax: (228) 270-0034
Email: drhodes@thefirstbank.com

CLAY CREATIONS

Jenise McCardell

Mark Currier

228-466-6347



220 Main St.
Bay St. Louis, MS. 39520
Claycreationsllc@yahoo.com

**A White Egret
in the Shallows**

**A book about the way we
were**



By
Paul Estronza LaViolette
Available through the Hancock
County Historical Society



MOSQUITO HAWK MARKET

701 Dunbar Avenue
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
228-467-4364

Art, Antiques, Business Incubator,
Cafe, Plant Nursery, etc.

Owners:
Judith Blaize
Joan Coleman

MosquitoHwkMarkt@BellSouth.net

George Cossitt

Jamie Temple



Bakery • Breakfast • Lunch • Ice Cream

112 North Second Street | Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 | 228-466-4930

SUE ASHMAN, ABR, CRS, GRI
BROKER



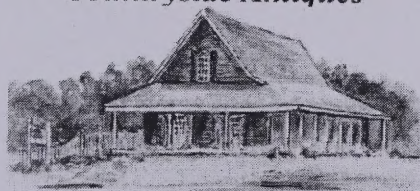
228-467-5454
418 Highway 90
Waveland, MS 39576

www.Ashman-Mollere.com
Mobile (228) 216-7864
Fax (228) 466-4561

TODD N. THRIFFILEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

PHONE: (228) 467-2400
TOLL FREE: 1-866-670-8681

Countryside Antiques



Countryside Antiques

Established 1978

151 Highway 90
Waveland, MS 39576-2618
228-467-2338

Mike Mayo
Tom Cottom
Cell: 228-493-7264

Hours: Wed.—Sat. 10:00 A. M.—5:00 P. M.
Sun.—By chance or by appointment

www.csantiques.com

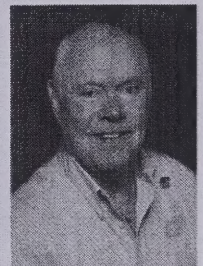
LATTER & BLUM
INC/REALTORS®

Since 1916

JOHN E. HARRIS, GRI
Realtor-Associate

Cell (228) 493-4111
Toll Free (800) 215-4111
Fax (228) 467-2507
E-mail jeharris@latterblum.com

1188 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520



Charles B. Benvenuti
Certified Public Accountant

Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA, PA

831 Highway 90
P.O. Box 2639
Bay St. Louis, MS
39521-2639

228-467-1402
Fax 228-467-2594
Email: Chuck@Benvenuttipa.com

Hancock County Library System (COMP)
321 Hwy 90
Bay Saint Louis MS 39520

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39521

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE AND ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ANNUAL DUES \$15 INDIVIDUAL/\$25 HOUSEHOLD \$ _____